Rummage Heap Quickstart for Ryan

PRETTY PLEASE follow these steps the first time you open Rummage Heap, or else things will get real wonky real fast.

1) When you open the app, give it a good 20 to 30 seconds before you try to do anything. This is to ensure everything has had a chance to load and initialize. If you're lucky you'll hear several "chimes" as the application starts up. You should see a big green waveform near the top of the page. You'll also see some of those orange dots on the right turn green as the program loads. That's the last step in the initialization process. Let's rock.

2) Find the AUDIO SETTINGS tab (very top of the page towards the left). Then select "Built-in Output" from the DRIVER menu. (This assumes you want to use your computer's system output to hear playback. If you have an audio interface connected it will show up in this menu, so you can select that driver if you prefer.)

3) I know you're gonna want to dive right into this, but before you hit play, preview the file that loaded by default. Find the little grey PREVIEW FILE box on the far left side of the page (to the bottom left of the big green waveform). Hit the play toggle (>) and listen to the original file. FYI the same track is loaded into both WAVE 1 and WAVE 2 by default. It's a dried up track I did for someone's documentary. Pretty lame, right? Well herein lies the magic of Rummage Heap: You can load a crappy track like that and turn it into something quite wonderful.

4) Hit spacebar and let Rummage Heap run its demo. It'll just keep going, so you can let it play and watch the sequencers, position values, subwave parameters, etc. to get an idea of how things work.

5) Now ask the stewardess for a plastic cup full of whiskey and make some music.

General Notes for Getting Started
• Just about everything in the application is hinted, so you can hover over most interface objects (number boxes, sliders, text, etc.) and a little hint will pop up telling you about that particular parameter and/or how to use it.

• Take a look at the help windows by clicking their buttons, which are to the right of the WAVE 1 - 4 tabs (near the top left of the page). There are some handy keyboard shortcuts and other useful info.

• You'll probably need to mess with the I/O SIZE and SIG SIZE parameters in AUDIO SETTINGS to get the best results. If you're hearing a lot of clicking and snapping, try cranking your I/O SIZE to maximum (usually 1024) and set the SIG SIZE as low as possible without hearing a bunch of dropouts, snaps, and stutters. I've found a good combination to be: I/O SIZE = 1024 and SIG SIZE = 64.

• Save often! As soon as you get something you like, save it!! Use (shift-s) or SAVE from the HEAP MANAGER FILE dropdown menu. Note this is actually saving your presets, so of course you'll need to create presets of your settings first. See the SEQUENCER & PRESET HELP window by clicking the button, which explains how to save presets and apply preset sequencing. But in a nutshell, just shift-click on any preset number to store your current settings. If you shift-click on an existing preset (orange) it overwrites that preset.

• See that little red line that's jumping around in the Waveform window? That's showing you the current position in the sequence for each Subwaveform. To monitor a different Subwaveform, use the POS MON menu to select 1-4, which correspond to Subwaves A through D for each WAVE.

• There's a lot going on by default, so to get a better handle on what's happing, try muting all of the Subwaveforms except one (use the 'M' toggle at the bottom of the Subwaveform mixers to mute that Subwave).

• If you need more specific info (such as how to record into Live) take a look at the User's Manual.